

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMSTER 00241 161329Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /044 W  
-----162236Z 059037 /72-62

R 161030Z MAR 77  
FM AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM  
TO USDOC WASHDC  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3018  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS AMSTERDAM 241

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BPRO, EAIR, NL, NI  
SUBJ: TRANSPORTATION: CARGO ZEPPELINS OR HOVERCRAFT

1. PORT CONGESTION IN NIGERIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER BOOM-ECONOMY AREAS IS A WELL REPORTED PROBLEM. DUTCH TRADERS, DEPENDENT LARGELY ON OCEAN SHIPPING, ARE AT LEAST AS GREATLY AFFECTED AS THOSE OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. AT LEAST ONE MAJOR DUTCH TRADING FIRM IS SEARCHING HARD FOR AN IMAGINATIVE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SERVING NIGERIA AND WOULD LIKE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT CARGO CARRYING ZEPPELINS OR HOVERCRAFT MIGHT OFFER A COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE SOLUTION. THIS IDEA IS INTRIGUING AND WE WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON IT FROM U.S. SOURCES.

2. A SYSTEM FOR SERVING NIGERIA BY ZEPPELIN OR LONG-RANGE HOVERCRAFT, ACCORDING TO THIS FIRM, MIGHT OPERATE FROM AN OCEAN PORT IN NORTH AFRICA, SOUTHERN EUROPE OR AN OFF-SHORE ISLAND (THE CAPE VERDES?) BUT BE ABLE TO BY-PASS EXISTING NIGERIAN AIR AND SEAPORT FACILITIES. CARGO CARRYING DEMANDS OF THIS FIRM ALONE ARE ABOUT 200 METRIC TONS PER WEEK. CURRENTLY SOME IS SHIPPED BY DC-8 VIA KENYA WITH FREIGHT COSTS EXCEEDING DOLS 32,500 FOR 45 TONS.

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3. THIS FIRM ESTIMATES THAT DEMAND WOULD GREATLY EXCEED 1,000 MT PER WEEK AND BE ABLE TO SUSTAIN CHARGES OF ABOUT U.S. DOLS .80 PER TON MILE, FOR THE NEXT 5 - 7 YEARS OR LONGER.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PASS THIS INQUIRY TO THE APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES OR COMMERCIAL FIRMS. SPECIFICALLY WE WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON EXISTING OR PLANNED LIGHTER-THAN-AIR OR

HOVERCRAFT SYSTEMS ABLE TO TRANSPORT UP TO 1,000 MT IN 100 MT  
LOADS OVER A 1,500 - 2,200 MILE RANGE FOR NOT MORE THAN  
U.S. DOLS .80 PER TON MILE. IF SUCH SYSTEMS EXIST PLEASE FORWARD  
THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF OFFICIAL OR COMMERCIAL SOURCES OF  
INFORMATION WITH WHOM FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE EXCHANGED.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PORT CONGESTION, MARINE TRANSPORTATION, TRADE, AIR CARGO, GROUND EFFECT MACHINES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3097302  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TRANSPORTATION: CARGO ZEPPELINS OR HOVERCRAFT  
**TAGS:** BPRO, EAIR, NL, NI  
**To:** COM  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009